

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.     A plugable call control application program interface, comprising:  
2                     a base plugable call control application program interface to expose a common set  
3                     of function calls, properties, and callbacks to be utilized by a plurality of call control  
4                     protocols; and  
5                     an extended application program interface to provide at least one of advanced  
6                     function calls, properties, and callbacks beyond the common set.

1           2.     The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,  
2     further including:

3                     a platform isolation layer having a reduced set of basic system functionality to  
4                     interact with the base plugable call control application program interface and the  
5                     extended application program interface; and

6                     a software application executing on a communications system that accesses the  
7                     base plugable call control application program interface to initiate a communication  
8                     utilizing one of the plurality of call control protocols.

1           3.     The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 2,  
2     wherein the communications system is a computer system.

1           4.     The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 2,  
2     wherein the communications system is an embedded system.

1           5.     The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,  
2     wherein the plurality of call control protocols include at least one of an International  
3     Telecommunication Union (ITU) H.323 protocol, a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), and a  
4     Media Gateway Control Protocol (MGCP).

1           6.     The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,  
2     wherein the call control protocols are Internet Protocol (IP) telephony call control protocols.

1           7.     The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,  
2     wherein the plugable call control application program interface is an American National  
3     Standards Institute (ANSI) "C" application program interface.

1           8.     The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,  
2     wherein the at least one of advanced function calls, properties, and callbacks provide additional  
3     protocol-specific functionality to at least one of the plurality of call control protocols.

1           9.     The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,  
2     wherein the at least one advanced function calls, properties, and callbacks beyond the common  
3     set is accessed using the base plugable call control application program interface.

1           10.    The plugable call control application program interface according to claim 1,  
2     wherein the extended application program interface provides protocol specific information along  
3     with base defined callbacks.

1           11.    A method of performing call control on a communications system, the method  
2 comprising:  
3                providing a common set of function calls, properties, and callbacks to be utilized  
4 by a plurality of call control protocols;  
5                providing at least one of advanced function calls, properties, and callbacks  
6 beyond the common set; and  
7                accessing the common set of function calls, properties, and callbacks to initiate a  
8 communication utilizing one of the plurality of call control protocols.

1           12.    The method according to claim 11, further including:  
2                providing a reduced set of basic system functionality to interact with the common  
3 set of function calls, properties, and callbacks; and  
4                executing a software application on a communications system to access the  
5 common set of function calls, properties, and callbacks to initiate the communication  
6 utilizing one of the plurality of call control protocols.

1           13.    The method according to claim 12, wherein the communications system is a  
2 computer system.

1           14.    The method according to claim 12, wherein the communications system is an  
2 embedded system.

1           15.     The method according to claim 11, wherein the plurality of call control protocols  
2     include at least one of an International Telecommunication Union (ITU) H.323 protocol, a  
3     Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), and a Media Gateway Control Protocol (MGCP).

1           16.     The method according to claim 11, wherein the call control protocols are Internet  
2     Protocol (IP) telephony call control protocols.

1           17.     The method according to claim 11, further including providing with the at least  
2     one of advanced function calls, properties, and callbacks additional protocol-specific  
3     functionality to at least one of the plurality of call control protocol.

1           18.     The method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one advanced function  
2     calls, properties, and callbacks beyond the common set is accessed using the base pluggable call  
3     control application program interface.

1           19.     The method according to claim 11, wherein the extended application program  
2     interface provides protocol specific information along with base defined callbacks.

1           20.     A communications system, comprising:  
2                   a computer-readable medium; and  
3                   computer-readable program code, stored on the computer-readable medium,  
4                   adapted to be loaded and executed on an operating system of the communications system,  
5                   the computer-readable program code performing,

6 providing a common set of function calls, properties, and callbacks to be  
7 utilized by a plurality of call control protocols,  
8 providing at least one of advanced function calls, properties, and callbacks  
9 beyond the common set, and  
10 accessing the common set of function calls, properties, and callbacks to  
11 initiate a communication utilizing one of the plurality of call control protocols.

1 21. The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the computer-  
2 readable program code further performs:

3 providing a reduced set of basic system functionality to interact with the common  
4 set of function calls, properties, and callbacks; and  
5 executing a software application on the communications system to access the  
6 common set of function calls, properties, and callbacks to initiate the communication  
7 utilizing one of the plurality of call control protocols.

1 22. The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of call  
2 control protocols include at least one of an International Telecommunication Union (ITU) H.323  
3 protocol, a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), and a Media Gateway Control Protocol (MGCP).

1 23. The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the call control  
2 protocols are Internet Protocol (IP) telephony call control protocols.

1           24.    The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the computer-  
2   readable program code further performs providing with the at least one of advanced function  
3   calls, properties, and callbacks additional protocol-specific functionality to at least one of the  
4   plurality of call control protocols.

1           25.    The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the communications  
2   system is a computer system.

1           26.    The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the communications  
2   system is an embedded system.

1           27.    The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the at least one  
2   advanced function calls, properties, and callbacks beyond the common set is accessed using the  
3   base plugable call control application program interface.

1           28.    The communications system according to claim 20, wherein the extended  
2   application program interface provides protocol specific information along with base defined  
3   callbacks.